

## MEETING SUMMARY

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# CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY SESSION NOTES – MARCH 08, 2018

**PREPARED FOR:** Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

**PREPARED BY:** Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

**DATE:** March 12, 2018

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the March 8, 2018 CV-SALTS Executive Committee Policy Session. The main purpose of this meeting was to resolve remaining language issues for the Staff Report. The Board received several comments from the Executive Committee on Basin Plan language, and Board staff reviewed the changes to the Basin Plan Staff Report (that will inform the Board members) that will be implemented.

## BACKGROUND

Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) is a collaborative stakeholder driven and managed program to develop sustainable salinity and nitrate management planning for the Central Valley. The goals of CV-SALTS are as follows:

- Sustain the Valley's lifestyle
- Support regional economic growth
- Retain a world-class agricultural economy
- Maintain a reliable, high-quality urban water supply
- Protect and enhance the environment

CV-SALTS includes four working groups:

1. Technical
2. Public Education and Outreach
3. Economic Social Cost
4. Other (CEQA, policy development, etc.)

## ACRONYMS

AID – Alta Irrigation District Archetype	NIMS – Nitrate Implementation Measures Study
ACP – Alternative Compliance Program	P&O Study – Prioritization and Optimization Study
BP – Basin Plan	SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
BPTC – Best Practicable Treatment and Control	SMCL – Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency	SNMP – Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
IAZ – Initial Analysis Zone	SSALTS – Strategic Salt Accumulation Land and Transport Study
ICM – Initial Conceptual Model	WQO – Water Quality Objective
ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program	
LSJR – Lower San Joaquin River	
MUN – Municipal beneficial use	

## SUMMARY AND RELEVANCE TO KRWCA

- **Basin Plan Staff Report changes** – Jeanne Chilcott, Basin Plan Program Manager from the Regional Board, led the group in a discussion that reviewed changes to the Staff Report that will accompany the Basin Plan and inform The Regional Board members and the public by summarizing what is contained in the Basin Plan. The Staff Report also documents the process of public comment solicitation and response.
- **Outreach and Education** – The committee presented the last brochure insert (drinking water) for review.

### STAFF REPORT FOR BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS

- Jeanne Chilcott (Regional Board) explained the purpose of and what is in the Staff Report that accompanies the Basin Plan for the Regional Board to consider
  - Whenever the Basin Plan is changed, Regional Board has to provide a no action alternative, then all the alternatives that represent what is being proposed; each of these alternatives have options within them
  - Also need to provide anti-degradation analysis, and economic analysis, and response to public comments
  - The Staff Report includes a summary of all these components
  - This one will be released for public review on March 19, then there is a 45-day public comment period. All the comments received in writing need to be responded to in writing before the hearing (period between May 4 and May 31/June 1 hearing)
  - April 19 meeting, and May 4 CV-SALTS meetings – Exec Committee will have opportunity to comment before May 4 deadline (45 days after March 19)
  - Staff Report includes many tables and matrices to summarize all the alternatives, components, definitions, etc.
  - Richard and Tess are writing appendices to the Staff Report that explain in plain language what permittees have to do – basically a boiling down of what’s in the Basin

Plan so that permittees don't have to read through the whole Basin Plan to figure out what to do

- Summarized proposed stakeholder edits to executive summary (see agenda package page 1)
  - Salinity Control program main changes:
    - Clarification needed on whether in-kind work can be accepted in lieu of payment towards various programs – new language TBD
    - Clarification needed on “limiting use of site specific objectives to ‘more conservative’”, meaning that you could only do a site-specific objective study that would result in a more conservative objective (lower threshold), which was probably not the original intent. New language TBD.
  - Starting on package p. 10, there is a large table to show the Basin Plan elements/alternatives/options. The bolded boxes represent what is included in the recommended alternatives. Non-bold boxes represents other alternatives.
    - Question about whether dedesignated dischargers should be required to participate in P&O or not. Depends on when the dedesignation was? Palupa says they should participate because they could be part of overall solution – maybe if they overlie a salt sink they could be paid to receive more salt, etc.
  - TLB salinity implementation
    - Reference exceptions and variances instead of specifically mentioning or removing, re 175 mg/L chloride exception
    - References to max salinity limits refer to effluent limits, not water quality objectives – re oilfield wastewater; so that oil dischargers can participate in P&O study
  - Nitrate Control Program
    - Mostly editorial changes
    - Management zones can encompass multiple basins/sub-basins for the purpose of governance. For the purposes of allocating assimilative capacity and developing management plans, that will have to be done per basin/sub-basin. So need to have two different terms that refer to each of these different concepts. For example, in the ESJ coalition, there are 25 surface water management plans.
  - Conditional Prohibition
    - Removal of annual progress reports – don't want to require full progress reports annually if they aren't necessary; clarification needed on what “annual progress report” would entail – huge report requiring consultant or a 1-page update? NPDES requires annual reports, even if Regional Board doesn't require it. NPDES permittees don't want to have to do multiple annual reports, or not comply. So, annual reports won't be required, but for this who need it for NPDES, then can fill out a brief form.
  - Surveillance and Monitoring Program Requirements

- NOT going to remove requirements of program assessment report on nitrate in the lower zones for each required groundwater basin/sub-basin. Language will be clarified regarding which zones.
    - Second bolded comment was misinterpreted and will not be applied.
    - Dairy was suggested to be removed because the monitoring they are doing is in the shallow zone, and wouldn't apply to this type of monitoring program
  - Variance Policy
    - No significant changes
  - Exception Policy
    - For the purpose of qualifying for an exception, the footnote #3 from the table summarizing how discharges are categorized will be put into the Exceptions Policy and the Staff Report. This gives the discharger more flexibility to use effluent or receiving water to determine discharge category.
  - SMCL
    - Board received conflicting comments – same issues that have been unresolved for the last several months.
    - Putting implementation type language (such as averaging, how to measure water quality constituents [total, filtered, etc.]) is usually not done in the Staff Report, but will include it to be thorough and to avoid misinterpretation
    - Still discussing total vs. filtered, table value interpretation, etc.
  - Definitions
    - Many definitions were removed from the Staff Report because it was too difficult to pinpoint a single definition that would apply to all the scenarios in which a term might be used. Examples include baseline water quality, existing water quality, reasonable and feasible, etc.
- Administrative Update
  - Public Education and Outreach committee presented two Drinking Water inserts for review (1 page and 2 pages). The Executive Committee had some comments and have further opportunity to comment
  - Outreach tracking form – on CVSC website, to track any presentations, delivery of handouts, etc.
- Meeting Schedule
  - April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting changed to April 13<sup>th</sup>